

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: 1.2 – Assistance for individuals including those with special needs

DEST Question No. E306_05

Senator Allison provided in writing.

Question:

1. On what research was the recently announced \$700 tuition payment scheme based?
2. How many hours does DEST estimate that the \$700 payment will buy a student? How will DEST measure the impact of this scheme?
3. What accountability measures will be attached to this scheme to ensure that parents use the \$700 on tuition for their children?
4. Will the department monitor the tuition providers in this scheme?

Answer:

Tutorial Credit Initiative

1. The Tutorial Credit Initiative is a pilot. A full evaluation is to be conducted in association with the pilot.
2. The provision of a certain number of hours has not been specified in the guidelines as the number of hours will depend on the hourly rate of the tutor which may vary due to market rates differing between areas. An indicative guide to the numbers of hours can be obtained by using the ATAS rate as a guide – currently \$35 per hour for tuition. In this case \$700 would equate to some 20 hours of tuition.

The outcomes of the Initiative will be assessed in an independent evaluation which will be publicly available. The specific terms of reference for the evaluation are yet to be considered by the Minister. Information on individual outcomes may be considered as part of the evaluation.

3. The Tutorial Credit is not a cash payment to parents. A Tutorial Credit can only be used for one-on-one reading tuition, including pre and post tuition assessment through a tutor registered with the broker.
4. Yes. Under contractual arrangements with the Department the broker will be responsible for monitoring of the tuition providers in accordance with the guidelines.